

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

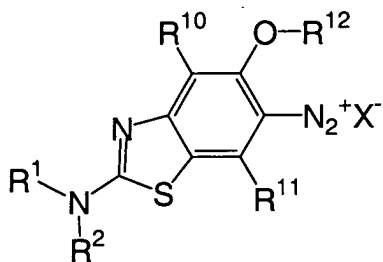
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-2 (canceled).

3. (currently amended): ~~A~~The diazonium salt according to claim 1, and represented by the following general formula (3):

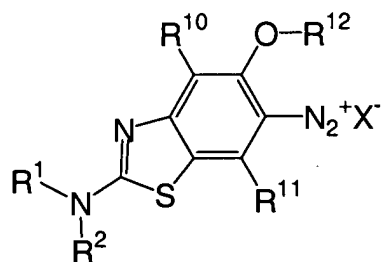
General formula (3)



wherein R¹ and R² each independently represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, an acyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group or a carbamoyl group, and R¹ and R² may be linked each other to form a ring; R¹⁰ and R¹¹ each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, an alkylthio group, an arylthio group, an alkylsulfonyl group or an arylsulfonyl group; R¹² represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group or an aryl group; and X⁻ represents an anion.

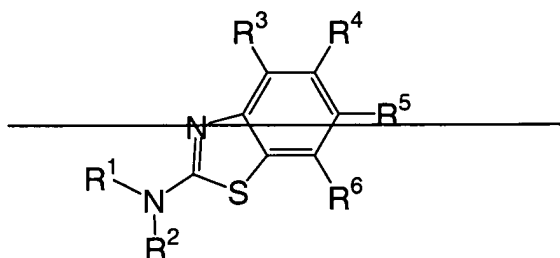
4. (currently amended): A thermal recording material comprising, on a support, a thermal recording layer containing a coupler and a diazonium salt represented by the following general formula (3):

General formula (3)



wherein R¹ and R² each independently represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, an acyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group or a carbamoyl group, and R¹ and R² may be linked each other to form a ring; R¹⁰ and R¹¹ each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, an alkylthio group, an arylthio group, an alkylsulfonyl group or an arylsulfonyl group; R¹² represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group or an aryl group; and X⁻ represents an anion(1):

General formula (1)

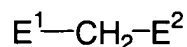


wherein R¹ and R² each independently represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, an acyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group or a carbamoyl group, and R¹ and R² may be linked each other

~~to form a ring; and R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, an alkylthio group, an arylthio group, an alkylsulfonyl group, an arylsulfonyl group or a diazonio group, and at least one of R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ represents the diazonio group.~~

5. (original): The thermal recording material according to claim 4, wherein the coupler is a compound represented by the following general formula (4) or a tautomer thereof:

General formula (4)



wherein E¹ and E² each independently represents an electron withdrawing group, and E¹ and E² may be linked each other to form a ring.

6. (original): The thermal recording material according to claim 4, wherein the diazonium salt is encapsuled in microcapsules.

7. (original): The thermal recording material according to claim 6, wherein walls of the microcapsules include at least one of polyurethane and polyurea as a constituent.

8. (original): The thermal recording material according to claim 4, wherein the thermal recording layer includes an organic base.

9. (original): The thermal recording material according to claim 8, wherein the organic base is used in an amount of 0.1 to 30 parts by weight with respect to 1 part by mass of the diazonium salt.

10. (original): The thermal recording material according to claim 4, wherein the thermal recording layer includes a color forming aid.

11. (original): The thermal recording material according to claim 4, wherein the thermal recording layer includes a free radical generating agent.

12. (original): The thermal recording material according to claim 11, wherein the free radical generating agent is used in an amount of 0.01 to 5 parts by mass with respect to 1 part by mass of the diazonium salt.

13. (original): The thermal recording material according to claim 4, wherein the thermal recording layer includes a vinyl monomer.

14. (original): The thermal recording material according to claim 13, wherein the vinyl monomer is used in an amount of 0.2 to 20 parts by mass with respect to 1 part by mass of the diazonium salt.

15. (original): The thermal recording material according to claim 4, wherein at least one of a light transmittance control layer and a protective layer is disposed on the thermal recording layer.

16-19. (canceled).

20. (currently amended): ~~A~~The thermal recording material according to claim ~~19~~4, wherein the thermal recording layer includes the diazonium salt represented by the general formula (3) in an amount of 0.02 to 5 g/m².